

STATEMENT OF FACTS

R. J. Strickland
Chief Investigator
Florida Legislative
Investigation Committee

In Re: Conversation held with one
[REDACTED] white, male, age
28 years of age, and employed at the
University Library, University of
Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

On Tuesday evening, August 19, 1958, in Room 202, at the Thomas Hotel in Gainesville, Florida, Mr. Bill Tileston along with one [REDACTED] arrived at the hotel at approximately 5:20 P.M., and proceeded to Room 202 in the above stated hotel. Said room being registered and occupied by myself, but by former arrangement arranged so as Mr. Tileston could bring [REDACTED] to same. After the arrival of Mr. Tileston and [REDACTED] and upon their entering the above stated room, I waited approximately three to four minutes before entering myself. Upon so doing, I found Mr. Tileston and [REDACTED] in a general line of conversation in the room. I identified myself to [REDACTED] stating that we were aware of his activity as a homosexual and of his attempt to get Mr. Tileston to have homosexual relations with him the night before, being Monday night, August 18, 1958. [REDACTED] admitted, at this point, that he was a homosexual and identified himself by producing a 1958 Florida drivers license. Also, that he had been involved in homosexual activity for a period including the past two years during which time he was a student at the University of Florida, and that at this time he has made application to enter Florida State University and do post-graduate work in trying to obtain his Masters Degree.

Although [REDACTED] talked freely about his personal activity and his being a homosexual, he refused to name anyone whom he knew of being the same, but readily admitted that there were several students and members of the faculty of the University of Florida whom he knew to be homosexuals, but stated that he was too much of a man to involve anyone else when it was unnecessary. Although he stated that on most occasions he would not be able to give the names of such persons, he knew to be homosexuals, he readily admitted that he knew them by face and could point out many of them in the student body of the University and also certain members of the faculty, but refused to do so in either case.

[REDACTED] stated that he had had relations with other men in his apartment,

or room, in other persons' automobiles, but in no place particularly as being a designated spot. That he had observed on several occasions such people as he knew to be homosexuals in and around the Courthouse in Gainesville, Florida, that he had also observed the condition that exists in the men's rest room located in above stated Courthouse, and that it is his knowledge that such homosexual relations exist, or is being practiced in that location. When pinned down to the finer points of these relations, he stated that any person being familiar with such type of activity could have easily observed such people hanging in and around the Courthouse especially in the late afternoon or early evening parts of the day.

When questioned closely about the type of approach that is used by a homosexual, his answer was that it was used more or less the same as trying to pick up a female. That in observing said people you would watch closely for two men observing each other intently, or paying undue attention to one another.

[redacted] admitted that the approach he made on Mr. Tileston in the Thirsty Gator Bar in Gainesville, on Monday evening, August 18, 1958, was for the purpose of trying to get Mr. Tileston to have homosexual relations with him. He also admitted that he had set up the date for Tuesday evening, August 19, 1958, at 5:00 P.M. and that his intentions were to go through with such homosexual relations as he might desire; that he, very willingly, accepted Mr. Tileston's suggestion of coming to the hotel for such purposes as stated above and that he was under the impression that Mr. Tileston was a salesman from out of town and was staying at the hotel during the course of his business in Gainesville.

[redacted] admitted that on several occasions he had had relations with other homosexuals and that such relations would be performed on each other simultaneously, and that on other occasions such performances would be singularly performed, that it depended entirely upon the desire or the eagerness of each other. That he realized the situation exists as far as his being a homosexual and it would eventually get him into trouble or put him in such a position that would become very embarrassing, but he also stated that he did not intend to try to break such a habit, at least until such time as he became financially able to support a family or wife,